

Honorable Jamal N. Whitehead

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

VALVE CORPORATION,)
)
Plaintiff,) **DEFENDANTS' SECOND AMENDED**
) **ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S SECOND**
v.) **AMENDED COMPLAINT**
)
LEIGH ROTHSCHILD, ROTHSCHILD)
BROADCAST DISTRIBUTION)
SYSTEMS, LLC, DISPLAY)
TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, PATENT ASSET)
MANAGEMENT, LLC, MEYLER LEGAL)
PLLC, AND SAMUEL MEYLER)
)
Defendants.) Case No.: 2:23-cv-01016
)
_____)

1. Plaintiff Valve Corporation ("Valve"), through its undersigned counsel, hereby alleges as follows against Defendants Leigh Rothschild; Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, LLC; Display Technologies LLC; Patent Asset Management, LLC; Meyler Legal, PLLC; and Samuel Meyler (collectively, "Defendants"):

ANSWER: This paragraph contains no allegations to which a response should be required, but, to the extent a response is required, Defendants admit that the following paragraphs contain allegations against one or more Defendants by Valve.

I. NATURE AND HISTORY OF THE ACTION

A. Defendants' tactics forced Valve to seek its requested relief to put an end to their bad-faith assertions of patent infringement.

ANSWER: Denied.

2. This is an action that seeks various forms of relief due to Defendants' bad faith

1 assertions of patent infringement against Valve.

2 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that this is a civil action, but otherwise deny the
3 allegations of Paragraph 2.

4
5 3. First, Valve seeks a declaratory judgment that U.S. Patent No. 8,856,221 (“the
6 ’221 Patent”), which Defendants have asserted against Valve, is invalid.

7 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that this is an action brought by Valve seeking, *inter*
8 *alia*, a declaratory judgment that the ’221 Patent is invalid, but otherwise deny the allegations
9 of Paragraph 3.

10
11 4. Second, Valve seeks a declaratory judgment that the ’221 Patent is
12 unenforceable against it as Valve is a licensee to the ’221 Patent under the 2016 Global
13 Settlement and License Agreement (Ex. 1) between Valve and Defendants Leigh Rothschild
14 and Display Technologies, LLC.

15 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that this is an action brought by Valve seeking, *inter*
16 *alia*, a declaratory judgment that the ’221 Patent is unenforceable against Valve and that Valve
17 is a party to the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement between Valve and Defendants
18 Leigh Rothschild and Display Technologies, LLC. that was attached as Exhibit 1 to Plaintiff’s
19 Second Amended Complaint, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 4.

20
21 5. Third, Valve seeks a judgment that Defendants breached the 2016 Global
22 Settlement and License Agreement by: threatening to sue Valve for infringement of the
23 licensed ’221 Patent; demanding additional monetary payments from Valve to avoid that
24 lawsuit; suing Valve for infringement of licensed U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723; and by failing to
25 withdraw their threat over U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723.

26 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that this is an action brought by Valve seeking, *inter*

1 *alia*, a judgment that Defendants breached the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement,
2 but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 5.

3
4 6. Fourth, Valve seeks a judgment that Defendants violated Revised Code of
5 Washington (“RCW”) 19.350 (the Patent Troll Prevention Act) and RCW 19.86.020 (the
6 Washington State Consumer Protection Act) by making bad faith assertions of patent
7 infringement against Valve.

8 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that this is an action brought by Valve seeking, *inter*
9 *alia*, a judgment that Defendants violated Revised Code of Washington (“RCW”) 19.350 (the
10 Patent Troll Prevention Act) and RCW 19.86.020 (the Washington State Consumer Protection
11 Act), but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 6.

12 **B. Defendants are patent trolls engaged in a pattern of unseemly litigation**
13 **tactics, often based on objectively baseless allegations**

14 **ANSWER:** Denied.

15
16 7. Upon information and belief, Defendant Rothschild Broadcast Distribution
17 Systems (“RBDS”), the owner of the ’221 Patent, does not make, use, or sell any products or
18 services of its own, but is solely in the business of patent licensing through the threat of
19 litigation, a pattern of behavior indicative of entities commonly referred to as “patent trolls.”

20 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that RBDS does not make, use, or sell any products or
21 service of its own, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 7.

22
23 8. Upon information and belief, RBDS’s sole business model and activity involves
24 making accusations of patent infringement to extract licensing payments from practicing
25 entities. RBDS has filed over 100 lawsuits in furtherance of that goal.

26 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that RBDS has filed other lawsuits to protect its rights as

owner of the '221 Patent but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 8.

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant Leigh Rothschild (“Rothschild”) owns or controls dozens of companies, including RBDS. The sole purpose of the Rothschild companies is to accuse others of patent infringement. The goal of these accusations is to extract a quick settlement from the accused infringers rather than actually litigate the merits of the infringement claims. Ex. 2 (Stupid Patent of the Month: “Internet drink mixer” vs. everyone, <https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2015/09/stupid-patent-of-the-month-internet-drink-mixer-vs-everyone/>).

ANSWER: Defendants admit that PAM owns multiple companies, including RBDS, and that Mr. Rothschild is the sole owner of PAM, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 9.

10. Entities owned by Rothschild have filed over a thousand patent infringement lawsuits. Ex. 3 (NPE Showcase – Leigh Rothschild, <https://www.gadgets-gigabytes-and-goodwill.com/2023/05/npe-showcase-leigh-rothschild/>). In some instances, the defendants chose to fight rather than pay nuisance-value settlements. Courts have found such lawsuits brought by Rothschild entities to be objectively baseless, resulting in fees and other penalties against the Rothschild entities. Ex. 4 (Federal Circuit Hits Stupid Patent Owner With Fee Award, <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/06/federal-circuit-hits-stupid-patent-owner-fee-award>).

ANSWER: Defendants admit that entities owned by PAM have filed other patent infringement lawsuits but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 10.

C. Rothschild-controlled entities have engaged in a pattern of accusing Valve of infringement based on patents that they already licensed to Valve.

ANSWER: Denied.

1
2 11. On June 8, 2015, Display Technologies, an entity controlled by Rothschild, filed
3 suit against Valve, accusing it of infringing U.S. Patent No. 8,671,195.

4 **ANSWER:** Admitted.
5

6 12. On November 14, 2016, Display Technologies and Valve entered into the 2016
7 Global Settlement and License Agreement. In that agreement, Display Technologies granted
8 Valve a “perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, fully paid-up, worldwide license” to all patents
9 listed in Exhibit C of the settlement agreement, as well as “all continuations, divisionals,
10 continuations-in-part, extensions, reissues, reexaminations, and any other patents or patent
11 applications claiming priority to or through the patents identified in Exhibit C.” Ex. 1 at 2.
12 Valve paid to obtain these rights. Ex. 1 at 5-6.

13 **ANSWER:** Admitted.
14

15 13. Rothschild signed the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement on behalf
16 of himself, Display Technologies, and all entities listed as “Assignee” in Exhibit C to the
17 agreement. Ex. 1 at 14 & 18-19.

18 **ANSWER:** Admitted.
19

20 14. In March 2022, Daniel Falcucci, the Director of Business Development at
21 Defendant Patent Asset Management (“PAM”), began sending numerous emails and messages
22 to members of Valve’s legal team, including LinkedIn messages, requesting that Valve execute
23 a new license with Rothschild and his various entities for more money. Mr. Falcucci stated that
24 PAM was headed by Rothschild, and that it was Mr. Falcucci’s understanding that PAM had
25 signed the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement with Valve. Ex. 5 (LinkedIn
26 message from Daniel Falcucci to Valve). Nonetheless, Mr. Falcucci repeatedly urged Valve to

1 negotiate a new licensing agreement with Rothschild. Id. As one example, Mr. Falcucci sent a
2 LinkedIn message to a member of Valve’s legal team offering an “opportunity” to enter into a
3 new agreement with PAM, and further offered to present what PAM called its “inventory
4 catalog” upon request. Id. The referenced “inventory catalog” is nothing but a list of patents
5 that Rothschild entities routinely assert against companies that are developing and
6 manufacturing actual useful products. PAM’s inventory catalog it presented to Valve included
7 multiple patents that Valve already licensed in the 2016 Global Settlement and License
8 Agreement.

9 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Mr. Falcucci sent communications to individuals at
10 Valve in or around March 2022 to ask whether Valve would be interested in obtaining a license
11 to one or more patents owned by PAM or a subsidiary thereof that were not covered by the
12 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement and that Mr. Falcucci included a list of every
13 patent then-owned by PAM or a subsidiary thereof with one of those communications, but
14 otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 14.

15
16 15. Listed in the inventory catalog as part of PAM’s “featured inventory” that was
17 “not subject to an agreement” between Valve and Rothschild and that Rothschild now wanted
18 Valve to take a license to were United States Patent Nos. 8,617,160 and 9,402,664. Both
19 patents claim devices and methods for implanting nails into human bone during a medical
20 procedure to facilitate fracture healing.

21 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that the list of patents sent by Mr. Falcucci to Valve
22 included U.S. Patent No. 8,617,160 (“the ‘160 patent”) and U.S. Patent No. 9,492,664 and that
23 the ‘160 patent claims “[a] device for the implantation into osseous material to facilitate
24 healing,” but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 15.

25
26 16. Valve is not, and never has been, in the business of developing or selling any

1 products in the medical field, let alone specific, FDA-regulated surgical tools like the kind
2 PAM was offering to license to Valve.

3 **ANSWER:** Defendants lack knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or
4 falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 16 and therefore deny those allegations.

5
6 17. None of Mr. Falcucci's messages ever provided any analysis of which Rothschild
7 patents Valve was supposedly practicing or which of Valve's products were supposedly
8 practicing those patents—only that Valve should pay PAM and Rothschild more money.

9 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Mr. Falcucci did not provide an analysis of any
10 patent owned by PAM or a subsidiary thereof to Valve, but otherwise deny the allegations of
11 Paragraph 17.

12
13 18. Mr. Falcucci's demands included that Valve take a license to at least two patents
14 assigned to Display Technologies, U.S. Patent Nos. 8,671,195 and 9,300,723. Valve, however,
15 already has a license to both of those patents under the 2016 Global Settlement and License
16 Agreement.

17 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement
18 grants Valve a license to U.S. Patent No. 8,671,195 and U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723, but
19 otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 18.

20
21 19. Shortly after Mr. Falcucci's string of demand messages, Display Technologies
22 sued Valve in this Court for patent infringement. *See Display Technologies LLC v. Valve*
23 *Corporation*, 2-22-cv-01365 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 27, 2022).

24 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Display Technologies filed suit against Valve in the
25 U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington for patent infringement on or about
26 September 27, 2022, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 19.

1
2 20. Defendants Samuel Meyler (“Meyler”) and Meyler Legal, PLLC (collectively,
3 “Meyler Defendants”) represented Display Technologies in its 2022 lawsuit against Valve.

4 **ANSWER:** Admitted.

5
6 21. Display Technologies asserted infringement of U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723, which
7 is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 8,671,195, the patent originally asserted against Valve that
8 led to the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement. Accordingly, U.S. Patent No.
9 9,300,723 is covered under the parties’ 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement. Display
10 Technologies’ suit against Valve in 2022 was thus a breach of that agreement.

11 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723 (“the ‘723 patent”) was
12 asserted by Display Technologies in the case captioned *Display Technologies LLC v. Valve*
13 *Corporation*, 2:22-cv-01365 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 27, 2022), but note that the ‘723 patent is a
14 continuation-in-part, not a continuation, of U.S. Patent No. 8,671,195 (“the ‘195 patent”), and
15 that the ‘195 patent was asserted against Valve in the case captioned *Display Technologies LLC*
16 *v. Valve Corporation*, 2:15-cv-00999 (E.D. Texas June 9, 2015), but otherwise deny the
17 allegation of Paragraph 21.

18
19 22. Valve informed Display Technologies that Valve had a license to U.S. Patent No.
20 9,300,723 under the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement. In doing so, Valve sent the
21 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement to the Meyler Defendants twice, once in
22 October and once in December 2022. In its December letter, Valve explained the history of the
23 2015 litigation between Display Technologies and Valve and informed the Meyler Defendants
24 that “[t]he Global Agreement granted Valve a license to all of Rothschild’s patents that could
25 conceivably be construed to cover any portion of Valve’s business.” Ex. 6 at 1.

26 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Christopher Schenk, Legal Counsel at Valve, sent

1 the GSLA to Samuel Meyler in October 2022 and an undated letter via email to Samuel
2 Meyler, with a copy to Jay Johnson of Kizzia Johnson PPLC, in December 2022, that included
3 a copy of the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement and that the undated letter
4 included the quoted language, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 22.

5
6 23. Display Technologies voluntarily dismissed its lawsuit on October 13, 2022, but
7 did so without prejudice. See *Display Technologies LLC v. Valve Corporation*, Case No. 2:22-
8 cv-01365, Dkt. 6 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 27, 2022) (Ex. 7).

9 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Display Technologies dismissed the complaint in
10 *Display Technologies LLC v. Valve Corporation*, Case No. 2:22-cv-01365, (W.D. Wash. Sept.
11 27, 2022) under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(1)(A)(i), but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph
12 23.

13
14 24. Since dismissing that case without prejudice, Mr. Falcucci has not withdrawn or
15 retracted his demands, made on behalf of Rothschild and PAM, that Valve take a license to
16 patents owned by Display Technologies that are already covered under the 2016 Global
17 Settlement and License Agreement (including U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723).

18 **ANSWER:** Denied.

19
20 25. Defendants' improper threats to sue Valve for patent infringement on patents
21 Valve already had a license to did not end there.

22 **ANSWER:** Denied.

23
24 26. On June 21, 2023, the Meyler Defendants sent a letter to Valve on behalf of a
25 *different* Rothschild-controlled entity—RBDS—threatening to file another lawsuit against
26 Valve, this time alleging infringement of the '221 Patent if Valve did not negotiate a resolution

1 of RBDS's claims. Ex. 8 (Meyler letter to Valve).

2 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Samuel Meyler sent a letter on or about June 21,
3 2023, to Christopher Schenk, Legal Counsel at Valve, but otherwise deny the allegations of
4 Paragraph 26.

5
6 27. For the second time in less than a year, Rothschild and PAM, this time through
7 RBDS, are threatening to sue Valve for infringement of a patent that Valve is already a licensee
8 to under the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement.

9 **ANSWER:** Denied.

10
11 28. The '221 Patent is expressly listed as one of the licensed patents in Exhibit C of
12 the 2016 Global Licensing and Settlement Agreement. Ex. 1 at 19. Less than five minutes of due
13 diligence—namely, reviewing the licensing agreement—would have confirmed that Valve is
14 licensed to the '221 Patent.

15 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that the '221 Patent is listed on Exhibit C of the 2016
16 Global Licensing and Settlement Agreement, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph
17 28.

18
19 29. Because Valve had already sent the agreement to the Meyler Defendants, on
20 information and belief, they were aware of its terms when Mr. Meyler sent the June 21, 2023,
21 letter to Valve.

22 **ANSWER:** Denied.

23
24 30. Prior to filing the 2022 lawsuit alleging infringement of United States Patent No.
25 9,300,723 on behalf of Rothschild-controlled Display Technologies, Meyler was required by
26 Washington Rule of Professional Conduct 3.1 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11 to

1 investigate the basis for Display Technologies' claims.

2 **ANSWER:** Denied. Washington Rule of Professional Conduct 3.1 states:

3 A lawyer shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or controvert an issue
4 therein, unless there is a basis in law and fact for doing so that is not frivolous,
5 which includes a good-faith argument for an extension, modification, or reversal of
6 existing law.

and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(b) states:

7 By presenting to the court a pleading, written motion, or other paper—whether by
8 signing, filing, submitting, or later advocating it—an attorney or unrepresented
9 party certifies that to the best of the person's knowledge, information, and belief,
10 formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances:

11 (1) it is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass,
12 cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation;

13 (2) the claims, defenses, and other legal contentions are warranted by
14 existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or
15 reversing existing law or for establishing new law;

(3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so
identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable
opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and

(4) the denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if
specifically so identified, are reasonably based on belief or a lack of
information.

16 31. At a minimum, Meyler's investigation should have included a review of the 2016
17 Global Settlement and License Agreement between Display Technologies and Valve, which
18 would have informed him of the numerous patents to which Valve was already licensed.

19 **ANSWER:** Denied.

20
21 32. The most-recent demand letter, combined with the fact that Display Technologies
22 already sued Valve for infringement of a patent it has a license to, demonstrates that it is highly
23 likely one or more Defendants will sue Valve for infringement of the '221 Patent.

24 **ANSWER:** Denied. Valve has a valid and enforceable covenant not to sue for the '221
25 Patent from Defendants.

33. In the meantime, the cloud of Defendants' improper infringement allegations hangs over Valve, its products, and its services. Defendants' actions have created an actual, justiciable, substantial, and immediate controversy between Valve and Defendants as to whether the '221 Patent claims are valid, and whether those claims are enforceable against Valve.

ANSWER: Denied. Valve has a valid and enforceable covenant not to sue for the '221 Patent from Defendants.

34. A judicial declaration is necessary to determine the respective rights of the parties regarding the '221 Patent, and Valve respectfully seeks a judicial declaration that the '221 Patent is invalid and unenforceable against Valve.

ANSWER: Denied. Valve has a valid and enforceable covenant not to sue for the '221 Patent from Defendants.

35. On information and belief, Rothschild, RBDS, Display Technologies, and PAM are highly assertive entities whose entire business model is to make bad faith assertions of patent infringement in the hopes of obtaining a quick settlement payment. The Meyler Defendants knowingly and willingly assisted in making such claims against Valve and, presumably, other companies as well. The assertions raised against Valve by the collective Defendants are in violation of RCW 19.350 because they are objectively and subjectively baseless allegations that Valve is infringing a patent to which Valve already has a license. Defendants' bad faith assertions of patent infringement resulted in Valve spending unnecessary money on legal fees to defend itself against these baseless claims.

ANSWER: Denied.

II. THE PARTIES

36. Valve Corporation is a software and videogame developer with its primary place

1 of business at 10400 NE 4th St. Fl. 14, Bellevue, WA 98004.

2 **ANSWER:** Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or
3 falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 36 and therefore deny those allegations.
4

5 37. On information and belief, Leigh Rothschild resides at 1801 NE 123rd St. North,
6 Miami, FL 33181.

7 **ANSWER:** Admitted.
8

9 38. RBDS is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of
10 Texas with a registered physical address of 1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Ft.
11 Lauderdale, FL 33301.

12 **ANSWER:** Admitted.
13

14 39. RBDS owns the rights to the '221 Patent, which it has asserted at least 120 times
15 against companies across a wide range of industries. No party that contested infringement has
16 ever been found by a federal court to infringe the '221 Patent. In each of its cases, RBDS
17 dismissed the lawsuit prior to claim construction.

18 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that RBDS is the assignee of the '221 Patent, but
19 otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 39.
20

21 40. Display Technologies is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of
22 the state of Texas with a registered physical address of 1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Ft.
23 Lauderdale, FL 33301.

24 **ANSWER:** Admitted.
25

26 41. PAM is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of

1 Florida, with a registered physical address of 1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Fort
2 Lauderdale, FL, 33301.

3 **ANSWER:** Admitted.

4
5 42. Rothschild is the registered agent of PAM.

6 **ANSWER:** Denied.

7
8 43. PAM owns 100% of RBDS and Display Technologies. Dkt. 21.

9 **ANSWER:** Admitted.

10
11 44. Upon information and belief, Display Technologies, RBDS, and PAM are
12 controlled by Rothschild and are used by him for the sole purpose of asserting patent
13 infringement claims. PAM owns 100% of each of RBDS and Display Technologies. Dkt. 21.

14 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that PAM owns 100% of each of RBDS and Display
15 Technologies, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 44.

16
17 45. Samuel Meyler is an attorney licensed in Washington State. Meyler is the sole
18 practitioner of Meyler Legal, PLLC, having a registered place of business at 1700 Westlake Ave
19 N Ste 200, Seattle, WA 98109-6212.

20 **ANSWER:** Admitted.

21
22 46. Rothschild signed and submitted the patent assignment agreement transferring
23 rights to the '221 Patent from one of his controlled entities, Ariel Inventions, to another of his
24 controlled entities, RBDS. Ex. 9 (Patent Assignment Cover Sheet). Rothschild signed on behalf
25 of both parties to the assignment.

26 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Rothschild signed an Assignment of Patent Rights

1 on behalf of Ariel Inventions LLC that assigned all rights in the '221 Patent to RBDS, but
2 otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 46.

3
4 47. Despite being personally informed that Valve previously executed the 2016
5 Global Settlement and License Agreement with Rothschild, and being sent a copy of that
6 agreement, Meyler, on his firm's letterhead, authored and sent the June 2023 demand letter to
7 Valve that threatens a lawsuit based on the '221 Patent, a patent explicitly listed in the 2016
8 Global Settlement and License Agreement.

9 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Mr. Meyler sent Valve a letter on June 21, 2023, but
10 otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 47.

11
12 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

13 48. This action arises under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202,
14 under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1 *et seq.* This action also arises under
15 the Patent Troll Prevention Act enacted by the state of Washington at RCW 19.350 prohibiting
16 bad faith assertion of patent infringement, and RCW 19.86.020, the Washington State Consumer
17 Protection Act.

18 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that the Second Amended Complaint purports to assert
19 claims under the Declaratory Judgment Act and the Washington State Consumer Protection Act
20 but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 48.

21
22 49. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims alleged in this action at
23 least under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 2201, and 2202, because this Court has exclusive
24 jurisdiction over declaratory judgment claims arising under the Patent Laws pursuant to these
25 statutes.

26 **ANSWER:** Denied. Valve has a valid and enforceable covenant not to sue for the '221

1 Patent from Defendants, and the Court does not have subject matter jurisdiction over Valve's
 2 declaratory judgment claims given the lack of any case or controversy. The Court therefore also
 3 lacks jurisdiction over Valve's state law claims.

4
 5 50. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Valve's state claims under 28
 6 U.S.C § 1367, as Valve's state law claims arise out of the same case or controversy as its claims
 7 for which this Court has original jurisdiction.

8 **ANSWER:** Denied. Valve has a valid and enforceable covenant not to sue for the '221
 9 Patent from Defendants.

10
 11 51. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they acted in
 12 concert to conduct substantial business in this District, including regularly doing or soliciting
 13 business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, suing other companies in this District
 14 on the '221 Patent, and deriving substantial revenue from individuals and entities in Washington.
 15 Rothschild-controlled entities routinely avail themselves of the Washington Federal District
 16 Courts as a forum for asserting infringement against Washington companies. *See, e.g.,*
 17 *Rothschild Broadcast Distrib. Sys., LLC v. CreativeLive Inc*, No. 2-22-cv-00771 (W.D. Wash.
 18 June 2, 2022); *Display Technologies LLC v. Valve Corp.*, No. 2-22-cv-01365 (W.D. Wash. Sept.
 19 27, 2022).

20 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that entities owned by PAM have previously filed suit in
 21 this district but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 51.

22
 23 52. The 2022 demand letters from Falcucci were made on behalf of both Rothschild
 24 and PAM, requested that Valve take a license to patents assigned to RBDS and Display
 25 Technologies, were sent to Valve's headquarters in Washington, and sought additional royalty
 26 payments from Valve.

1 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Falcucci sent correspondence to Valve to ascertain
2 whether Valve would be interested in taking a license to other patents assigned to entities
3 owned by PAM, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 52.

4
5 53. Shortly after Mr. Falcucci sent these demand letters on behalf of Rothschild and
6 PAM, Display Technologies, represented by the Meyler Defendants, filed suit against Valve at
7 Rothschild's directive.

8 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that Display Technologies, represented by Mr. Meyler,
9 filed suit against Valve on September 27, 2022, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph
10 53.

11
12 54. Accordingly, each Defendant purposefully and repeatedly directed its activities at
13 residents of Washington. On information and belief, Rothschild's companies have sent letters to
14 numerous other entities, including numerous other companies based in Washington, asserting
15 infringement of the '221 Patent and demanding payment of money. Thus, Defendants have
16 sufficient minimum contacts with the State of Washington to satisfy the Washington long-arm
17 statute (RCW 4.28.185) and Constitutional due process requirements because Defendants
18 regularly conduct business activities in Washington.

19 **ANSWER:** Denied.

20
21 55. This Court further has personal jurisdiction over the Meyler Defendants because
22 both are domiciled in this jurisdiction.

23 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that the Meyler Defendants are domiciled in the Western
24 District of Washington.

25
26 56. Venue in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), (c), and (d) with

1 respect to Valve's particular claims against all Defendants.

2 **ANSWER:** Denied. Other than the Meyler Defendants, none of the Defendants resides
3 in the Western District of Washington.

4
5 **IV. THE '221 PATENT**

6 57. The '221 Patent issued on October 7, 2014, to Rothschild and is titled "System
7 and method for storing broadcast content in a cloud-based computing environment." The '221
8 Patent is currently assigned to RBDS.

9 **ANSWER:** Admitted.

10
11 58. The '221 Patent is listed in Exhibit C to the 2016 Global Settlement and License
12 Agreement as one of the Licensed Patents. Ex. 1 at 19 (Patent No. 12).

13 **ANSWER:** Admitted.

14
15 **V. COUNT I: DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT THAT THE '221 PATENT IS**
16 **INVALID**

17 55. Valve incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

18 **ANSWER:** Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to each of the
19 preceding paragraphs of Plaintiff's Complaint.

20
21 56. In view of the facts and allegations set forth above, there is an actual, justiciable,
22 substantial, and immediate controversy between Valve and RBDS regarding the validity of the
23 '221 Patent. Absent a declaration of invalidity, RBDS will continue to assert the '221 Patent
24 wrongfully, thereby injuring Valve.

25 **ANSWER:** Denied.

1 57. As Valve explains throughout this Complaint and in Count III for Breach of
 2 Contract, incorporated by reference herein, Defendants behave as if compliance with the 2016
 3 Global Settlement and License Agreement was optional. To avoid any doubt the existence of
 4 that agreement and its covenant not to sue does not negate the case or controversy between
 5 Valve and Defendants because of Defendants' pattern of past and ongoing violations of that
 6 agreement. This is that unique case where a covenant not to sue between the parties fails to
 7 provide Valve with the protection it paid for because, unfortunately, the assurances given to
 8 Valve in that agreement are worthless. Judicial intervention is therefore necessary to give Valve
 9 the rights it paid for, but that Defendants have denied it.

10 **ANSWER:** Denied.

11
 12 58. The '221 patent is invalid for failure to meet one or more of the conditions of
 13 patentability under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not
 14 limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112, and Valve is entitled to a declaration to that
 15 effect. By way of non-limiting example, upon information and belief, the claims of the '221
 16 Patent are invalid as obvious under U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2008/0155059,
 17 titled "Methods and apparatus for supporting content distribution," alone or alternatively in view
 18 of U.S. Patent No. 7,684,673 titled "Managing a digital video recorder via a network."

19 **ANSWER:** Denied.

20
 21 **VI. COUNT II: DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT THAT THE '221 PATENT IS**
 22 **UNENFORCEABLE AGAINST VALVE**

23 59. Valve incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

24 **ANSWER:** Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to each of the
 25 preceding paragraphs of Plaintiff's Complaint.

26 60. Valve received a "perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, fully paid-up, worldwide

1 license” to the ’221 Patent by signing the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement.

2 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement
3 included the grant of a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, fully paid-up, worldwide license to
4 the ’221 Patent.

5
6 61. That Agreement applies with equal force to RBDS as it did to Ariel Inventions
7 LLC, the Rothschild-controlled entity that was assigned the ’221 Patent when the 2016 Global
8 Settlement and License Agreement was signed. Indeed, Section 7.2 of the agreement states that
9 “Licensor may not assign, or exclusively license, any of the Licensed Patents without such
10 assignee or licensee agreeing to be bound by the obligations of the Licensor hereunder as if it
11 were a party hereto, and any assignment or exclusive license made in violation of this provision
12 shall be void.” Ex. 1 at 7.

13 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement
14 includes the quoted language, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 61.

15
16 62. As discussed above, because Defendants behave as if compliance with the 2016
17 Global Settlement and License Agreement is optional, judicial intervention is necessary to give
18 Valve the rights it paid for, but that Defendants have denied it.

19 **ANSWER:** Denied.

20
21 63. Valve thus is entitled to judgment declaring that the ’221 Patent is unenforceable
22 against Valve, and that no party can file suit against it for infringement of the ’221 Patent.

23 **ANSWER:** Denied.

24
25 64. Valve has no adequate remedy at law for its declaratory judgment claims.

26 **ANSWER:** Denied.

VII. COUNT III: BREACH OF CONTRACT

65. Valve incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

ANSWER: Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to each of the preceding paragraphs of Plaintiff's Complaint.

66. Section 3.1 of the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement is titled "Licensor License to Licensee" and states "No royalties or additional payments of any kind shall be required in order to maintain this Agreement in force." Ex. 1.

ANSWER: Admitted.

67. Section 3.2 of the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement is titled "Covenant Not to Sue Licensee" and states "Licensor covenants not to sue Licensee or its Affiliates for actual or alleged infringement of the Licensed Patents." Ex. 1.

ANSWER: Admitted.

68. Valve fully performed its obligations under the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement.

ANSWER: Denied.

69. As a condition of being assigned the '221 Patent, RBDS is bound by the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement as if it was an original signatory to the agreement.

ANSWER: Denied.

70. As the original signatory to the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement, Display Technologies is bound by the agreement.

1 **ANSWER:** Admitted

2
3 71. The “potential resolution” and “resolution” discussed in the 2023 demand letter
4 sent by Meyler on behalf of Rothschild and RBDS is a monetary payment for additional rights to
5 patents to which Valve is already licensed, including the ’221 Patent.

6 **ANSWER:** Denied.

7
8 72. RBDS breached at least Section 3.1 and anticipatorily breached Section 3.2 (and
9 therefore breached the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement) when it asserted the
10 ’221 Patent against Valve in its most recent demand letter.

11 **ANSWER:** Denied.

12
13 73. RBDS repudiated its covenant not to sue Valve by expressly threatening to sue
14 Valve if it did not pay additional money to RBDS. Ex. 8 at 1.

15 **ANSWER:** Denied.

16
17 74. In other words, RBDS made a positive statement indicating distinctly and
18 unequivocally that it would not substantially perform its obligations under the covenant not to
19 sue without receiving additional monetary payment that goes beyond Valve’s payment
20 obligations under the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement.

21 **ANSWER:** Denied.

22
23 75. As noted above, RBDS also breached Section 3.1 of the 2016 Global Settlement
24 and License Agreement by demanding additional payment for rights to patents licensed to Valve
25 in the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement.

26 **ANSWER:** Denied.

1
2 76. Further, Display Technologies breached the covenant not to sue when it asserted
3 U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723 in its 2022 lawsuit against Valve and continues to be in breach by
4 failing to withdraw the 2022 demands from Mr. Falcucci.

5 **ANSWER:** Display Technologies admits it breached the covenant not to sue when it
6 asserted U.S. Patent No. 9,300,723 in its 2022 lawsuit against Valve but denies the remaining
7 allegations of Paragraph 76 and denies that it is liable for breach of the 2016 Global Settlement
8 and License Agreement.

9
10 77. As explained above, Rothschild owns, controls, and directs the actions of RBDS
11 and Display Technologies. As a signatory to the 2016 Global Settlement and License
12 Agreement, Rothschild is also in breach and/or has anticipatorily breached the 2016 Global
13 Settlement and License Agreement.

14 **ANSWER:** Denied.

15
16 **VIII. COUNT IV: VIOLATION OF WASHINGTON UNFAIR BUSINESS**
17 **PRACTICES AND BAD FAITH ASSERTIONS OF PATENT**
18 **INFRINGEMENT, RCW 19.86 AND 19.350**

19 78. Valve incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

20 **ANSWER:** Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to each of the
21 preceding paragraphs of Plaintiff's Complaint.

22 79. Defendants made a pre-suit assertion of patent infringement by sending the
23 March 2022 demands to Valve, which falsely and misleadingly requested that Valve pay
24 additional fees to obtain a license to U.S. Patents 8,671,195 and 9,300,723, patents owned by
25 Display Technologies to which Valve already had a license.

26 **ANSWER:** Denied.

80. Defendants have not withdrawn Mr. Falcucci's demands.

ANSWER: Denied.

81. Defendants made another pre-suit assertion of patent infringement by sending the June 2023 demand letter to Valve, which claimed that Valve has infringed the '221 Patent and encouraged Valve to obtain a license to the '221 Patent to avoid litigation. This threat, like the March 2022 threat, was made outside the context of active litigation between Defendants and Valve.

ANSWER: Denied.

82. Defendants' pre-suit threats to sue Valve for infringing licensed patents are bad faith assertions of patent infringement and in violation of RCW 19.350 (the Patent Troll Prevention Act).

ANSWER: Denied.

83. Defendants sent the June 2023 demand letter when no judicial proceeding or litigation was pending between Defendants and Valve.

ANSWER: Defendants admit that no judicial proceeding or litigation was pending between Valve and any Defendant in June 2023 but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 83.

84. The June 2023 letter was emailed directly to a member of Valve's legal team.

ANSWER: Admitted.

85. The June 2023 letter did not attach any complaints or other proposed judicial

1 pleadings that Meyler intended to file. Instead, the letter explained that Valve could take a
2 license as a way of avoiding litigation.

3 **ANSWER:** Denied.

4
5 86. To avoid any doubt, this demand letter was a private communication between
6 two private parties outside of the context of any judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding.

7 **ANSWER:** Denied.

8
9 87. Defendants' assertion that Valve infringed licensed patents, such as the '221
10 Patent, was made in bad faith.

11 **ANSWER:** Denied.

12
13 88. Defendants' bad faith assertion of infringement imposed a significant burden on
14 Valve because Valve must now, yet again, expend resources to defend itself against meritless
15 infringement allegations.

16 **ANSWER:** Denied.

17
18 89. The following non-exclusive factors enumerated under RCW 19.350 weigh in
19 favor of a judicial finding that Defendants' threat of infringement against Valve was made in bad
20 faith:

21 a. 19.350.020(2)(d): "The person threatens legal action that cannot legally be
22 taken." As explained above, Valve has a worldwide, perpetual license to the '221 Patent.
23 While Defendants have routinely disregarded their legal obligations under the parties'
24 agreement—thus requiring the relief requested through this lawsuit—the fact remains
25 that Defendants legally cannot sue Valve for infringement of the '221 Patent or any other
26 patent covered by the 2016 license, yet have threatened, and even taken, legal action

1 against Valve contrary to the terms of the agreement.

2 b. 19.350.020(2)(f): “The person, or a subsidiary or an affiliate of the person, has
3 previously filed or threatened to file one or more lawsuits based on the same or
4 substantially equivalent assertion of patent infringement, and a court found the person’s
5 assertion to be without merit or found the assertion contains false, misleading, or
6 deceptive information.”

7 i. Upon information and belief, RBDS or another Rothschild- controlled
8 entity has asserted the ’221 Patent against at least 127 different companies
9 spanning hundreds of technological fields, industries, services, and products. The
10 only reason that a court has not previously found the assertions of the ’221 Patent
11 to be meritless is because these Rothschild-controlled entities exact a quick
12 settlement fee far below the costs to litigate and/or voluntarily dismiss their
13 lawsuits when presented with arguments over the non-infringement and/or
14 invalidity of the asserted patents.

15 ii. As noted above and expanded upon below, however, courts have found
16 that patent claims made by other Rothschild-controlled entities are without merit.
17 Indeed, on information and belief, Defendants, or a subsidiary or an affiliate of
18 one or more Defendants, made substantially equivalent assertions of patent
19 infringement that a court found to be so lacking in merit that it awarded fees to
20 the opposing party.

21 iii. For example, in the case referenced in attached Ex. 4, *Rothschild*
22 *Connected Devices Innovations, LLC v. Guardian Prot. Servs., Inc.*, No. 2:15-cv-
23 01431 (E.D. Tex.), the Rothschild plaintiff accused a company of infringing one
24 of the many patents naming Leigh Rothschild as its inventor. Rothschild
25 ultimately voluntarily moved to dismiss the action, which the district court
26 granted while concurrently denying the opposing party’s motion for attorney fees.

Rothschild Connected Devices Innovations, LLC v. Guardian Prot. Servs., Inc., 858 F.3d 1383, 1386 (Fed. Cir. 2017).

iv. Upon remand from the Federal Circuit, the district court ordered the Rothschild plaintiff to pay “the full amount of fees [the opposing party] seeks.” *Rothschild Connected Devices Innovations, LLC v. ADS Sec., L.P.*, No. 2:15-cv-01431, 2017 WL 5178998, at *2 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 8, 2017).

v. In its opinion, the Federal Circuit held (*Rothschild*, 858 F.3d at 1390 (emphasis added)):

[T]he undisputed evidence regarding Rothschild’s vexatious litigation warrants an affirmative exceptional case finding here. See Newegg, 793 F.3d at 1350 (“[A] pattern of litigation abuses characterized by the repeated filing of patent infringement actions for the sole purpose of forcing settlements, with no intention of testing the merits of one’s claims, is relevant to a district court’s exceptional case determination under § 285.”); see also Eon–Net, 653 F.3d at 1327 (noting that settlement offers that were “less than ten percent of the cost that [a defendant] expended to defend suit—effectively ensured that [a plaintiff’s] baseless infringement allegations remain unexposed”).

vi. Such substantially equivalent assertions by another Rothschild entity that led to an attorney fee award—and therefore, on information and belief, a finding that the underlying patent infringement assertion was without merit—are relevant to whether Defendants acted in bad faith here. Indeed, Defendants engage in exactly the same type of assertions that the Federal Circuit admonished in the above-described *Rothschild* decision.

c. 19.350.020(2)(g): “Any other factor the court determines to be relevant.” As explained above, Valve sent a copy of the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement to the Meyler Defendants. Those defendants, a law firm and attorney bound by the Washington State Rules of Professional Conduct, should have known about the agreement and its contents based on the bare-minimum due diligence required before

1 filing suit. The earlier-filed Meyler case, brought on behalf of Display Technologies, was
 2 voluntarily dismissed without prejudice because of that Rothschild-Valve contract. Five
 3 months later, however, Defendants are trying the same tactic again, asserting
 4 infringement of patents Valve has already licensed.

5 **ANSWER:** Defendants admit that RCW 19.350 and the panel's opinion in *Rothschild*
 6 *Connected Devices Innovations, LLC v. Guardian Prot. Servs., Inc.*, 858 F.3d 1383 (Fed. Cir.
 7 2017) include the quoted language, but otherwise deny the allegations of Paragraph 89.

8
 9 90. Defendants' violations of RCW 19.350 are an unfair and deceptive business
 10 practice in the conduct of trade or commerce, as declared unlawful and actionable per RCW
 11 19.86.020. *See* RCW 19.86.093; *see also* RCW 19.350.030 (A violation of the Patent Troll
 12 Prevention Act "is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of
 13 competition for purposes of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.").

14 **ANSWER:** Denied.

15 16 **IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, Valve respectfully requests the following relief:

- 18 a. Damages, treble damages, and attorney fees pursuant to RCW 19.86.090;
- 19 b. A declaration that the '221 patent is invalid and unenforceable against Valve;
- 20 c. Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against Defendants, and ordering
 21 Defendants and each of their officers, directors, agents, counsel, servants,
 22 employees, and all persons in active concert or participation with them to
 23 withdraw their claims and be restrained from alleging, representing, or otherwise
 24 stating that any Valve product or service infringes any patent covered by the
 25 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement, and further enjoining
 26 Defendants from instituting any action or proceeding against Valve alleging

infringement of any claims of any of the patents covered in the 2016 Global Settlement and License Agreement;

- d. Declaring Valve as the prevailing party and this case as exceptional, and awarding Valve its reasonable attorney fees, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- e. Awarding Valve all damages caused by Defendants' unlawful acts, including punitive damages and pre- and post-judgment interest, as provided by law;
- f. That Defendants be ordered to pay all fees, expenses, and costs associated with this action; and
- g. Awarding such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

ANSWER: Defendants deny that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief in any form.

X. JURY TRIAL REQUEST

Valve, pursuant to the Seventh Amendment of the United States Constitution, requests trial by jury on all issues properly heard by a jury.

ANSWER: Defendants admit that Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint includes a request by Valve for a jury trial.

GENERAL DENIAL

Each and every allegation in Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint not specifically admitted herein is denied.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

91. Subject to the responses above, Defendants assert the following defenses in response to Plaintiff's allegations, undertaking the burden of proof only as to those defenses deemed affirmative defenses by law, regardless of how such defenses are denominated herein. All defenses are pled in the alternative and are not admissions of liability or that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief. Defendants' investigation of the facts and their potentially available

defenses is continuing, and so Defendants expressly reserve the right to assert additional defenses under, inter alia, Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or any other defenses, at law in or in equity, that may now exist or in the future become available based upon discovery and further investigation in this case.

FIRST DEFENSE

(FAILURE TO STATE A CLAIM)

92. Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND DEFENSE

(FAILURE TO MITIGATE)

93. Plaintiff failed to take any steps to prevent or minimize the injuries alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint or to mitigate Plaintiff's alleged damages. In particular, the filing of this action by Valve was unnecessary and has resulted in the expenditure of unnecessary resources, including attorneys' fees and costs. On June 21, 2023, Mr. Meyler sent a letter to Mr. Schenck on behalf of Social Positioning Input Systems, LLC ("SPIS"), RBDS, and Quantum Technology Innovations, LLC ("QTI") regarding their respective claims against Valve. (Dkt. 38-8.) In response, Mr. Schenck indicated a desire to avoid litigation, but omitted the fact that Valve already had a license for the '221 Patent, which alone would have resolved any claim or dispute with respect to the '221 Patent. Valve did not provide notice of the alleged wrongful conduct or provide an opportunity to address concerns prior to filing suit, which could have prevented litigation costs. Further, at the time of the filing of this action, DT has long ago dismissed *Display Techs., LLC v. Valve Corp.*, Case No. 22-cv-1365 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 27, 2022), and Valve had a covenant not to sue in connection with the Licensed Patents (as defined in the parties' Global Settlement and License Agreement). In addition, by asserting multiple overlapping claims arising from the same set of facts, Valve has increased litigation costs unnecessarily. By asserting claims that are not supported by the law or facts, including claims

1 that have been dismissed, Valve has increased litigation costs unnecessarily. Further, Valve is
 2 paying for unreasonable and duplicative legal expenses, e.g. having multiple attorneys present
 3 at hearings and multiple attorneys participating in telephone conferences that could have been
 4 handled by one attorney.

5
 6 **THIRD DEFENSE**
 7 **(UNCLEAN HANDS)**

8 94. Plaintiff's claims for relief are limited or barred, in whole or in part, by the
 9 doctrine of unclean hands. On June 21, 2023, Mr. Meyler sent a letter to Mr. Schenck on behalf
 10 of SPIS, RBDS, and QTI regarding their respective claims against Valve. (Dkt. 38-8.) In
 11 response to Mr. Meyler's June 21, 2023 letter, Mr. Schenck indicated a desire to avoid
 12 litigation and asked to talk the week of July 17, 2023. Despite making such a statement, Valve
 13 filed suit July 7, 2023. Further, Mr. Schenck omitted the fact that Valve already had a license
 14 for the '221 Patent, which alone would have resolved any claim or dispute with respect to the
 15 '221 Patent.

16
 17 **FOURTH DEFENSE**
 18 **(EQUITABLE DOCTRINES)**

19 95. Plaintiff's claims for relief are limited or barred, in whole or in part, by one or
 20 more of the doctrines of acquiescence, estoppel, waiver, ratification, consent, and/or any other
 21 applicable equitable doctrine. On June 21, 2023, Mr. Meyler sent a letter to Mr. Schenck on
 22 behalf of SPIS, RBDS, and QTI regarding their respective claims against Valve. (Dkt. 38-8.) In
 23 response to Mr. Meyler's June 21, 2023 letter, Mr. Schenck indicated a desire to avoid
 24 litigation and asked to talk the week of July 17, 2023. Despite making such a statement, Valve
 25 filed suit July 7, 2023. Further, Mr. Schenck omitted the fact that Valve already had a license
 26 for the '221 Patent, which alone would have resolved any claim or dispute with respect to the

1 '221 Patent.

2 **COUNTERCLAIM**

3 Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, LLC (RBDS) asserts the following
4 counterclaim against Valve Corporation ("Valve"):

5 1. Valve has filed a complaint for declaratory judgment against RBDS alleging the
6 invalidity and unenforceability of U.S. Patent No. 8,856,221 ("the '221 Patent").

7
8 **PARTIES**

9 2. RBDS is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Texas
10 with a registered physical address of 1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
11 33301.

12 3. On information and belief, Valve is a corporation organized and existing under
13 the laws of the State of Washington with a place of business at 10400 NE 4th St. Fl. 14, Bellevue,
14 WA 98004.

15 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16 4. Valve has filed a complaint against RBDS seeking, *inter alia*, a declaratory
17 judgment of patent invalidity and unenforceability. As a result of the filing of Valve's complaint,
18 an immediate and justiciable case and controversy exists between RBDS and Valve. RBDS's
19 counterclaim relates to Valve's allegations of patent invalidity and unenforceability and arise
20 under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1, et seq.

21 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this counterclaim under 28 U.S.C.
22 §§ 1331 and 1338 and the Declaratory Judgment Act.

23 6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Valve, and venue is proper, under 28
24 U.S.C. §§ 1391(a), (b) and (c) and 28 U.S.C. § 1400, because, among other things, Valve resides
25 in this District and has submitted itself to the jurisdiction of this Court in this District by filing
26 its complaint against DT and RBDS in this District.

BACKGROUND

7. DT is the owner by assignment of U.S. Patent No. 8,671,195 (“the ‘195 Patent”) entitled “DIGITAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL.” The ‘195 Patent was duly and legally issued on March 11, 2014. A true and correct copy of the ‘195 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

8. RBDS is the owner by assignment of U.S. Patent No. 8,856,221 (“the ‘221 Patent”) entitled “SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR STORING BROADCAST CONTENT IN A CLOUD-BASED COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT.” The ‘221 Patent was duly and legally issued on October 7, 2014. A true and correct copy of the ‘221 Patent is attached as Exhibit B.

9. Leigh Rothschild is listed as the sole inventor of the ‘195 Patent and the ‘221 Patent.

10. On June 8, 2015, DT filed suit against Valve for infringement of the ‘195 Patent.

11. On November 14, 2016, DT and Valve entered into a settlement and license agreement (“the GSLA”) to resolve DT’s claims against Valve for infringement of the ‘195 Patent.

12. The GSLA defined “Licensed Patents” to mean, in relevant part, “the patents identified in Exhibit C” to the GLSA. Dkt. 1-1 at 2.

13. The patents identified Exhibit C to the GSLA included the ‘195 Patent and the ‘221 Patent. Dkt. 1-1 at 18, 19.

COUNTERCLAIM COUNT 1

(Infringement of the ‘221 patent)

14. RBDS repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference the averments set forth in the foregoing paragraphs of its Answer and Counterclaims as if fully set forth herein.

15. Valve has infringed and continues to infringe the ‘221 Patent under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a) by making, using, selling and/or offering for sale in, and/or importing into,

1 the United States, without authorization, products which provide a method storing media content
2 and delivering requested media content to a consumer device, such as Steam Cloud.

3 16. Valve has been aware of the '221 Patent and infringement of the claims thereof
4 by Valve's products since at least November 14, 2016.

5 17. Valve's Steam Cloud, and the use thereof, falls within the scope of at least claim
6 7 of the '221 Patent, as evidenced by Valve's product descriptions. For example, "Steam Cloud
7 allows games and the platform to utilize cloud storage hosted by Steam. Games can utilize Steam
8 Cloud for storage of many different types of data, including game settings, save games, profile
9 stats and other user-specific bits." [https://help.steampowered.com/en/faqs/view/68D2-35AB-](https://help.steampowered.com/en/faqs/view/68D2-35AB-09A9-7678)
10 [09A9-7678](https://help.steampowered.com/en/faqs/view/68D2-35AB-09A9-7678). The Steam Cloud provides an easy and transparent remote file storage system for
11 your game. Files specified in the Auto-Cloud configuration or written to disk (created, modified,
12 deleted, etc.) using the Cloud API will automatically be replicated to the Steam servers after the
13 game exits. See <https://partner.steamgames.com/doc/features/cloud#initial-setup>.

14 18. Valve, with knowledge that its products such as Steam Cloud, or the use thereof,
15 infringe the '221 Patent since at least November 14, 2016, knowingly and intentionally induced,
16 and continue to knowingly and intentionally induce direct infringement of the '221 Patent by
17 continuing to sell and offer for to sell these products to end-users for use in an infringing manner.

18 19. Valve's infringement of the '221 Patent therefore has been and continues to be
19 willful.

20 20. RBDS has suffered damages as a result of Valve's direct and indirect infringement
21 of the '221 Patent in an amount to be proved at trial.

22 21. RBDS has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm as a result of
23 Valve's infringement of the '221 Patent, for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless
24 Valve's infringement is enjoined by this Court.

25 **RBDS'S DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

26 RBDS demand a trial by jury on all matters and issues triable by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

RBDS request that judgment be entered as follows:

A. finding, declaring, and adjudging that Valve is not entitled to any remedy or relief, and, therefore, shall take nothing from RBDS;

B. finding, declaring, and adjudging in favor of RBDS against Valve, and dismissing with prejudice all claims of Valve against RBDS;

C. finding, declaring, and adjudging that Valve has willfully infringed the '221 Patent;

D. requiring that an accounting be had for the damages arising out of Valve's infringement of the '221 patent, including treble damages for willful infringement as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 284;

E. finding, declaring, and adjudging that this is an exceptional case pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;

F. awarding RBDS their costs (including expert witness fees), expenses, and reasonable attorney fees, and such other relief as may be appropriate; and

G. awarding such other and further relief as the Court deems proper and just.

1 Dated: May 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

2 By: /s/ Donald R. McPhail

3 Donald R. McPhail (admitted *phv*)

4 1900 Duke Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

5 Tel: (703) 518-4516

6 Fax: (612) 332-9081

Email: dmcphail@merchantgould.com

7 Matthew J. Cunanan (#42530)

8 DC LAW GROUP

12055 15th Ave NE, Suite B

9 Seattle, WA 98125

10 Tel: (206) 494-0400

Fax: (855) 494-0400

Email: matthew@dclglawyers.com

11 *Attorneys for Defendants Leigh Rothschild,*
12 *Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems,*
13 *LLC, Display Technologies, LLC, Patent Asset*
14 *Management, LLC, Meyler Legal, PLLC, and*
Samuel Meyler